

Special Recognition . . .

**Justin Union**, a member of 4-H club Pioneer Pals, is a State Champion at the Nebraska State Fair. One of his Call Ducks was named the Best of Class and then Best Overall Duck. He has been involved in the Fair for quite a few years.



Fort Calhoun Community Schools use an automated calling system to notify families of emergencies or weather-related closings. Make sure all your contact numbers are up-to-date by calling your child’s respective schools.

Navigating Our Website—A Crash Course

The tabs described here are on our homepage [www.fortcalhounschoools.org](http://www.fortcalhounschoools.org).

The “Directory” tab has all staff, alphabetically with pictures, their assignments and a link to e-mail them.

The “Calendars” tab has a drop down menu and the first entry is the 17-18 District Calendar which was approved by the Board of Education for general information about the days school is in session for students and staff, including holidays, conferences, early outs etc. The second tab, “16-17”, is last year’s District Calendar which may be used for reference. The third tab is the “Community Building Calendar” where you may go to find activities happening in the buildings or to sign up for use. There are also tabs for a “Printable Lunch Calendar” and “Sports Schedules”. Possibly the most important information is listed under the “Full Calendar View” tab. It lists information about all activities, sports, lunches, and school happenings scheduled so far and any changes that may have been made to information already published. You may view the information either by day, week, month, year, activity, sport and the list goes on! It is also printable so you can have a copy to hang on your fridge. Sports, Clubs and Activities, and Performing Arts are all found under “Pioneer Pride” just under the big Pioneer. Please note - all information is subject to change if circumstances change.

Some class and curriculum information is available under the “Moodle” tab however, it is in a transitional stage working toward moving to Google Classroom for 2018-19. There is information available on the Google Classroom app accessible on student iPads by them logging in for you.

We hope this helps with questions you may have, but as always the offices are open during regular business hours for your convenience.

Skills USA Hog Roast

**Fort Calhoun High School Commons**  
**Friday September 15, 2017**  
**4:30 - 7:00 PM**

**Tickets are available from Skills USA members**

**Tickets will also be available at the door for a slightly higher price**



- 9/11-15
- 9/11
- 9/15
- HOMECOMING WEEK 2017**  
Budget Hearing/School Board Meeting  
Parade on 15th & Monroe 12:30 PM  
Pep Rally following Parade  
Skills USA Hog Roast/HS Commons  
Football vs West Point Beemer 7:00 PM  
Coronation after the Game  
Homecoming Dance 9:00 - 12:00 PM  
Booster Club Meeting  
Band @ Papio South



The Fort Dispatch

Volume 27 No 2 Fort Calhoun Community Schools September 2017

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

Off and Running!

The 2017-18 school year is running on all cylinders. High School classes and activities are in full gear. Elementary classes are up and running but we are still in the process of finishing the kitchen and cafeteria remodel. I appreciate the staff for their ability to keep classes up and running while construction is drawing to a close. The elementary students are getting fed and are enjoying the additional room in the cafeteria. The rest of the project including the elevator addition should be completed at the end of this month.

School is off to a great start. There are a lot of new faces in our hallways including a few new staff members and a lot of new kids. Our hallways are full and students are settling into the school routine. As has been our practice over the past several years, every summer the Board of Education works to create annual goals to improve the education we provide for the students here at the “FORT”. The 2017-18 board goals are:

1.
- The Board of Education will work to complete all current projects at all building sites in the School District*
2.
- The Board of Education will complete a comprehensive school safety program and communicate it to all stakeholders in the School District.*

In the District offices we are putting the finishing touches on the 2017-18 budget. This year’s budget has been especially difficult as we took a \$500,000 drop in State Aid. That drop plus finishing the Kitchen/ Cafeteria project to correct code violations as well as space issues at the elementary will make this a really tight fiscal year. The saving grace this year is the increase in enrollment has offset some of the losses we have incurred due to the shortfall in State Aid. Balancing student growth with rising costs and keeping our District viable is a constant battle. You can be assured that the District offices and the Board of Education are constantly analyzing these issues and continue to work to put our District in the best position to educate our students at the highest levels while trying to do this as economically as we can. The building improvements program that we instigated seven years ago is almost complete. The remodeled buildings as well as the additional square footage have put our District in a great place to attract more families to the Fort Calhoun area. Once again thanks for your support in these efforts; it is because of this support that our buildings are equipped to educate students at the “FORT” for years to come.

The Fort Calhoun community is a great place to raise and educate children thanks to your support and to a great staff!

Dr. Don Johnson  
Superintendent of Schools



Visit our website at  
[www.fortcalhounschoools.org](http://www.fortcalhounschoools.org)



Mr. Jerry Green  
Secondary Principal

## Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally

Fort Calhoun Community Schools Homecoming will be on September 15th. The parade route this year will be the same as the last several years. We will start at 15th and Monroe and move north up 15th street to the school. The non-school participants will line up south of 15th and Monroe; this allows the school participants to come around the block and follow the band. School floats should line up in our south parking lot and will move down to 15th and Monroe to begin the parade. Students at the high school will be dismissed at 12:05 p.m. and the parade will start at 12:30 p.m.

All students, community members and visitors are invited to attend the Pep Rally at the high school stadium immediately following the parade. All students will be dismissed from the high school at approximately 1:30 p.m. We are all looking forward to another exciting Homecoming event.



The Pioneers For Education (PFE) are seeking parents/patrons to join their organization. Various events and volunteer opportunities are available for your participation. Registration forms with these opportunities are available in the schools' offices or on the school website under PFE.

## MR. NICK WEMHOFF Assistant Principal/AD

One of the things that the Booster Club has begun to do over the past few years is start to assign parents to work in the concession stands. Everyone always says if you tell me when, I will be there. So, if you are a parent of a sport this year, don't be surprised to be automatically assigned a date and time to work. We are doing this with good intentions, not trying to make it inconvenient for you. We tried to select dates and times that will not conflict with your own child's game, but we cannot account for what you do outside of school. So if you are given a time to work and it doesn't fit your schedule, just let me know and we will find someone else to cover that time. The Booster Club would like to thank you in advance for all your help! If you are willing to help more than that time or two we schedule you, feel free to sign up at: <http://www.fortcalhounschoools.org/community-organizations/booster-club/concession-sign-up/>

I would also like to encourage each of you to become a Booster Club Member. By becoming a member, you are supporting our Booster Club and its mission. Over the past 10 years, the Booster Club has donated over \$250,000 to our athletic programs. Their contributions have directly impacted every single sport we have in our schools including both High School and Junior High. If you would like information on becoming a Booster Club Member, please visit: <http://www.fortcalhounschoools.org/community-organizations/booster-club/membership-forms/>

For those of you who would like to have access to our school calendar at your finger tips, you now can! Our school calendar has an app that you can download to your smart phone. The app is call "activity scheduler". The logo is a blue hat with an RST in it. After you download it, you can find our school by searching the Nebraska Capitol Conference and then selecting our school. This calendar feeds directly off what I enter online so it is as up to date as you can possibly get. It will even show when games have been canceled if I make that adjustment online.

In closing, I am asking for your help. If you want to help our programs be successful, adhere to the following:

- Be a proud parent and support your child and our coaches no-matter what.
- Be a loyal fan and cheer on our teams and our coaches through good and bad.
- Be a positive community member and speak highly of our programs in public.

*The name we give to something shapes our attitude toward it.*  
- Katherine Paterson

## FOOD SERVICE 2017-18

### ELEMENTARY K-6

Student Breakfast	1.50
Adult Breakfast	2.00
Student Lunch	2.25
Seconds (Second Entrée)	1.50
Second Lunch	2.25
Milk	0.50
Reduced Breakfast	.30*
Reduced Lunch	.40*
Adult Lunch	3.55

### SECONDARY 7-12

Student Breakfast	2.00
Adult Breakfast	2.10
Student Lunch	2.60
Seconds (Second Entrée)	1.50
Second Lunch	2.60
Milk	0.50
Reduced Breakfast	.30*
Reduced Lunch	.40*
Adult Lunch	3.55

\* Required by Federal Legislation

Please make sure your children have money in their account for meals. Lunch benefit information was sent home the first day of school. 2016-17 carryover benefits will run for 30 days until 9/29/17. If no application or information has been received by that date, students will be charged full price for meals beginning on 10/2/17. **District Policy 3012 on charged meals is: "If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be permitted to charge up to five meals. Thereafter, if a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, no food will be provided."**

e-Funds™ and benefit information is also available on our website, [www.fortcalhounschoools.org](http://www.fortcalhounschoools.org).

## COMMUNITY WEIGHT ROOM USE



The renewal date for weight room access fobs is June 1st each year. Come to the High School Office to renew. The price is \$20.00. Fobs not renewed will be deactivated. If you have any questions contact Mr. Nick Wemhoff at 402-468-5591.

## SEASON/ACTIVITY PASSES 2017-18

Prices remain the same as 2017-18 \*\*\*

Elementary Students K-6	\$20.00
Jr-Sr High 7-12	\$30.00
Each Adult	\$50.00
Family Pass (Immediate Family)	\$110.00
Individual Admission Prices – Varsity Home Contests	
\$4.00 Students K-12	
\$5.00 Adults	
Individual Admission Prices – JV and Lower	
\$2.00 Students K-12	
\$3.00 Adults	

Golden Age Conference Passes are available **FREE OF CHARGE** to any patron over 60 who requests one.

\*\*\*FORT CALHOUN SEASON PASSES DO NOT INCLUDE ADMISSION TO ANY CONFERENCE, DISTRICT OR STATE CONTEST HELD AT FORT CALHOUN OR THAT FORT CALHOUN MIGHT HOST.



## Fort Calhoun Booster Club

The Booster Club has many ways for our patrons to become big Pioneer Fans. In addition to buying passes for contests, supporters may join the Booster Club to enjoy the full benefits of our spirit organization. Information and costs for membership are available at the High School Office. If you already are a member, **thank you!!**

Apparel to show your spirit is also available at all home athletic contests or by contacting one of the people who are taking care of sales this year. And another opportunity to order Pioneer Gear will be coming in November.



# **-Elementary News-**

**Your Principal: Drew R. Wagner**

***Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!***

Are you ready for some positive news? I know you are so here we go. This is what has been going on at the elementary building to start the school year. The solar eclipse was amazing, we hired a new para-professional, we kicked off our new fundraiser sponsored by the PFE and the building project is coming along nicely. In addition to all of these positive happenings we would like to share a few goals we've accomplished last year. Here we go!

The solar eclipse was an incredible teaching moment for all. Each class viewed this anomaly throughout the day. This opportunity was unique and we sure took advantage of this amazing event. The students were in "ahh"!

We had the opportunity to hire a new para-professional recently. Our new school family member is Kendra Mabbitt. Kendra has two students in the elementary building currently. Kendra is excited to join our team. She will be working in a variety of classrooms throughout the day to meet students' needs.

Next, we kicked off our new fundraiser on September 6, sponsored by our own PFE. This year is looking a little different than years past. The PFE is sponsoring a walk-a-thon with cool prizes for the students as they raise money. What is really neat is that 100% of the donations will come back to the PFE. Our actual walk-a-thon event is September 29. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lastly, we wanted to provide a quick update on our building project. We anticipate having the kitchen fully functioning on Monday, September 11. I don't know about you but we are excited to get into our new space. This kitchen is going to be amazing for our students. The other part of our building project is also coming along nicely. Our anticipated date for use is October 2. Let's continue to send positive vibes!

Our goals continue to be based around students. We have created new goals for this year but I wanted to share a few goals we accomplished last year. Let's celebrate together!

- We initiated and implemented a new math program with fidelity. This new math program really emphasizes providing different strategies to solve the problem. There are several different ways to get to an answer.
- We added and built upon resources that provide students the opportunity to think differently. We did this by professional development and using the school's budget appropriately by purchasing certain items (software, manipulatives, and new early intervention in reading program) to maximize students learning environment.

-We focused, and continue to, on building high design partnerships with each of you. This is one goal we continue to grow and monitor. Let's continue to work on this one together.

Thank you all for your support and believing in what we do! We appreciate you!

Be thankful, stay positive, and encourage a growth mindset. Take care! Go PIONEERS!

Respectfully,  
Drew R. Wagner

**\*BE CURIOUS BEFORE CRITICAL!**

## **Upcoming events for the 2017-18 school year:**

September 14: Preschool Field Trip to Apple Orchard  
September 15: Homecoming Parade  
September 25: 6th grade Field Trip to Summit Lake  
September 26: 5th grade Parent Band Meeting at the High School  
October 10: Picture Day  
October 11 and 19: Anti-bullying activity by the Fremont Crisis Center  
October 23-26: Book Fair in the Library  
October 25-26: Parent-Teacher conference-Early out; 1:15pm dismissal  
October 27: No School

*\*All dates are subject to change.*

*\*\*All Fridays during the year are early outs. The Elementary will dismiss students at 1:15pm.*

